IFW

OCT 2 0 2004 &

No.: 2004-2150.ORI

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Nippon Shokubai Co., Ltd.

S.N.:

10/784,553

Filed:

February 23, 2004

For:

Apparatus and process for purification of acrylic acid

family

Examiner: MANOHARAN, Virginia

Art Unit: 1764

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, applicant hereby submits the reference(s) listed on the attached Form(s) 1449 (or equivalent) such that said reference(s) may be considered and made of record. A copy of each of the cited reference(s) is enclosed. No representation is made that any of the listed references is prior art pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102 and/or 35 U.S.C. § 103.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in accordance with the following provision(s):

37 CFR 1.97(c) An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the Office if filed after the period specified in paragraph (b) of this section, provided that the information disclosure statement is filed before the

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450, on October 17, 2004 by applicant's attorney Robert J. Jacobson.

Robert J. Jacobson, Reg. No. 32,419

(Information Disclosure Statement-page 1 of 3)

mailing date of any of a final action under § 1.113, a notice of allowance under § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and it is accompanied by one of: (1) The statement specified in paragraph (e) of this section; or (2) The fee set forth in § 1.17(p). This information disclosure statement is accompanied by said paragraph (e) below:

37 CFR 1.97 (e)(1) The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

37 CFR 1.98(a)(3)(ii) A copy of the translation if a written English-language translation of a non-English-language document, or portion thereof, is within the possession, custody, or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in § 1.56(c). The following references are being submitted under this provision:

e. DE 196 31 332 (partial translation)

37 CFR 1.98(c) When the disclosures of two or more patents or publications listed in an information disclosure statement are substantively cumulative, a copy of one of the patents or publication may be submitted without copies of the other patents or publications, provided that it is stated that these other patents or publications are cumulative. The following references are being submitted under this provision where each of the references within the following groups of references is believed to be cumulative of the other reference in said group:

g. DE 1 208 291

g. GB 900,457

For the information of The Patent Office, please find further enclosed a copy of an EPO Communication dated September 3, 2004 (one page) having attached thereto a European Search

{18924.DOC}

Report (two pages) and an Annex (two pages) (document "a," five pages total). The EPO Communication cites the references listed on the PTO-1449.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10-17-7004

Robert J. Jacobson Reg. No. 32,419

Tel. No.: (651) 699-7900

650 Brimhall Street South

Fax. No.: (651) 699-7901 St. Paul, MN 55116-1511

PTO/SB/08a (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1895, required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO OCT 2 0 2004 INFORMATION DESCLOS

STATEMENT BY AREA

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet one of one

Complete if Known				
Application Number	10/784,553			
Filing Date	February 23, 2004			
First Named Inventor	Yukihiro MATSUMOTO			
Art Unit	1764			
Examiner Name	Virginia MANOHARAN			
Attorney Docket Number	2004-2150.ORI			

			U.S. PAT	TENT DOCUMENTS	
	Cite	Document Number Number Kind Code	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		(if known)			
	b	US- 4,019,964	04-26-1977	Fickel	
	С	US- 5,876,570	03-02-1999	Thigpen	
	f	US- 4,559,108	12-17-1985	Ahlberg	
	i	US- 4,056,444	11-01-1977	Weicht et al.	
	j	US- 4,372,822	02-08-1983	Muller et al.	4.6
	`m	US- 4,469,558	09-04-1984	Watson	
		US-			
		US-			-
		US-			
		US-			
		US-		·	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
	-	US-	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
		US-			
-		US-			
		103-		1	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Office ³	Foreign Patent Do Number4	Kind ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Τ ⁶
	đ	wo	97/44298	Al	11-27-1997	Glitsch International, Inc.		
	е	DE	196 31 332	Al	11-27-1997	Linde AG		
	g	DE	1 208 291		01-05-1966	BASF		
	.g.	GB	900,457		07-04-1962	BASF		
	h	GB	1 452 377		10-13-1976	British Petroleum Co. Ltd.		
	k	wo	90/07367	Al	07-12-1990	OY ALKO AB		
	1	EP	1 097 742	Al	05-09-2001	Nippon Shokubai Co., Ltd.		

Examiner	Date	-
Signature	Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.